795 The appearance of worship among the Catholic majority follows the internationally established rites of the Church of Rome which will here be discussed only inasmuch as they present certain features peculiar to Hungary. (Religious customs connected with holidays and superstitions are discussed in Subparagraph 1h.[1]

Most of the villages, however small, have their own churches. The [346] Protestant churches are ostensibly simple, while the Catholic ones are as richly decorated as the parish's financial situation permits. Divine services are being regularly attended, the men and women, with heads un- [554] covered, are seated in separate rows, wearing their best clothes. The front seats which used to be reserved for the local gentry are now occupied by the most respected well-to-do farmers' families. For the Catholics, special Sunday afternoon services are being held but, as a rule, these are attended by women only.

● 776 795 Among the Catholic peasants the veneration of saints and especially the cult of the Virgin Mary is widely practiced. The House of the Árpáds gave a number of Magyar saints to the Catholic Church; many of them still live in legends among the Magyar peasants. Szent (SAINT) László is the best remembered among them, embodying the ideal of Christian knighthood: gallantry in the fight against the pagans, charity, and defense of widows, orphans

[1][See cat. 116, pp. 72-92 -- Analyst]

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and the poor. Saint Steven's son Szent Imre, who died in his youth, represents chastity; Szent Erzsébet and Margit represent charity and pious contemplation. Holy Mary is addressed as Magyarok Nagyasszonya 'Patrona Hungariae'; as is the case in many other countries, people consider her to be a very special patroness of the country and turn toward her when the country is in trouble. Referred to also as Szüzanya 'Virgin Mother,' St. Mary's cult is by far the most popular, especially among women. The cult of Saint Joseph, patron of the Christian family, is also widespread.

From among the foreign saints, Saint Anthony of Padova, Saint Theresia of Lisieux, and Saint George are the most popular.

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The Magyars have numerous pilgrimage places which they visit occasionally or when they face special problems. The shrines they visit have images of saints, but mostly of the Holy Mary to which healing or other special powers are attributed. The most frequented ones are Máriabesnyó in the vicinity of Pest, a place of pilgrimage since 1759, the caves of Mária-remete in the same region, formerly inhabited by hermits, and Máriapócs near the city of Nyiregyháza which is the famous pilgrimage place of the Greek Catholics, numerous in that part of the country. The virtue of these places is attested by the Catholic Church and the faithful are encouraged to pay a visit there. Besides these and a few lesser accepted places, there are

10: Viski E-4, 5 (no date) 1932 EC1 Hungary EC1

Customs of Saint Gregory's and Saint Blase's days

857 It is no great compliment to be called a «knight of Saint Gregory's» in Hungarian... as Pope Gregory's knights are merely «tiddlers» amongst men:

As young trees
In an orchard,
Children and good boys
Are brought up
By God...

• [776] Saint Gregory as well as Saint Blase are the patrons of children and teaching. The troupe of schoolchildren, who go round the houses singing on Saint Blase's day (the [796] 3rd of February) and on Saint Gregory's day (the 12th of March) are the army of these saints... They are also dressed like soldiers with shakos and wooden swords... And so that everyone shall be sure of this, they sing:

I'm a soldier,
I stand on my heels,
I look around proudly
And gnash my teeth:
I know I look frightening...

But we are not as easily impressed as all that, even though they brandish their swords, they are only the envoys of saints... They recruit for their school the children who want to play truant; occasionally they even collect financial support for their schoolmaster. They like to copy the military forms of real recruiting. This is no wonder, as on few other occasions in the Hungarian past did such beautiful